



**Date:** December 10, 2004  
**To:** Gerald R. Miller, City Manager  
**From:** Katherine Parsons, Public Information Officer  
**For:** Mayor and Members of the City Council  
**Subject:** Weekly Update Ending December 10, 2004

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The following weekly update highlighting various activities for the week ending December 10, 2004 is provided for your information. I hope you will find this information useful. Please feel free to contact my staff should you have any questions.

**MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS**

**Health and Human Services**

Staff is continuing to take appointments to provide flu vaccines for seniors and persons at high-risk of injury or illness due to complications from the flu. Recognizing the hazards of having seniors stand in lines outside in the cold waiting to obtain a flu shot resulted in the establishment of a phone reservation system. Vaccine will be distributed to the public until the supply is exhausted. To make an appointment, individuals can call (562) 570-4270.

**Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau**

A community meeting was held at the Nature Center on December 8 to kick-off a feasibility study of improving the wetlands in the El Dorado Regional Park and Nature Center. The goals of the study are to improve the water quality in the lakes throughout the park, to reduce the use of potable water to support the lake systems, and to restore native riparian habitat along the lakes.

**Police**

Police Chief Batts addressed the largest and most diverse graduating class in the LBPd's history at a ceremony held at the downtown Terrace Theater on December 8. The class began with 2,500 applicants, 100 candidates and, surviving the intense 28-week academy, 65 graduates.

Recruits who excelled or stood out from the crowd were recognized and honored with special awards. Officer Matthew Kennison, son of retired Sergeant Dave Kennison, was presented with the "Outstanding Recruit" award and recognized for academic excellence. Officer Matthew Mills was chosen as the "Most Physically Fit." Officer Linneer Lawless was honored with the "Most Improved Shooter" award and Officer Alejandro Vergara was selected as "Outstanding Shooter." Officer Gabriel Carrillo received the "Iron Effort" award for his leadership, integrity, character and inspirational qualities.

### **MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS (continued)**

The next phase of training begins on Saturday, December 11, when these new officers begin their patrol assignments. Each officer will work with a number of training officers for the next year to gain field experience before working alone.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS**

#### **Fire**

The Fire Department will conduct a graduation ceremony on **Saturday, December 11**, at 11:00 a.m., for its 21 newest members. The ceremony, open to the public, will be held at the Fire Training Center located at 2249 Argonne Avenue. The 14-week academy includes specialized training in not only firefighting skills, but also emergency medicine, search and rescue techniques, Haz Mat, and other subjects to meet the State requirement for "Firefighter I" certification. The Fire Department graduation ceremonies include demonstrations of firefighter skills and displays of antique fire equipment. Also included in this weekend's ceremonies will be a special musical presentation by the Stephens Middle School.

#### **Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Services Bureau**

The Hmong Association of Long Beach, Inc., will hold their annual Hmong New Year Celebration at the Golden Grove section of El Dorado East Regional Park on **December 11 and 12**, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event is free to the public, except for the Park's \$5 vehicle entry fee, and attendees will be treated to traditional Hmong costumes, music, and dance, and will be able to purchase traditional foods and crafts.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

#### **Fire**

The Fire Department responded to a total of 1,160 emergency calls for service. Of those calls, 141 involved fires and 25 involved structures. The Fire Department also responded to 740 emergency medical calls, of which 542 required paramedics.

#### **Health and Human Services**

Public Health Laboratory staff attended a federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention Conference on Chemical Terrorism held in Atlanta, Georgia. Participants included laboratorians representing all 50 states who met to learn about advanced laboratory methods and the federal laboratory plan for a Chemical Terrorism event. Discussion topics also included specimen collection and transport, and the role of the CDC State Laboratory network and local Public Health Laboratories.

## **NEIGHBORHOODS**

### **Community Development, Neighborhood Services Bureau**

The Neighborhood Resource Center held its Annual Winter Potluck Mixer in celebration of its recent Helen Putnam Award from the League of California Cities. Approximately 20 neighborhood residents attended the event and shared their views on how the Neighborhood Resource Center can best provide outreach and services to Long Beach neighborhoods. State and local officials also presented certificates in recognition of the Neighborhood Resource Center's work.

### **Health and Humans Services, Preventive Health Bureau**

On December 1, staff offered an interactive workshop commemorating World AIDS Day. This year the theme was Women, Girls, HIV and AIDS, and featured an HIV-positive woman speaker from Los Angeles County's Positively Speaking Program.

During the past month, the "Healthy Active Long Beach" program was featured on LBTV's "Snapshot: Long Beach." The program highlighted Healthy Active Long Beach's Nutrition Education Classes and outreach efforts at the Farmers Market.

### **Parks, Recreation and Marine, Maintenance Operations Bureau**

The first month of play was completed at the newly opened Skylinks at Long Beach Golf Course. The month of November was very busy in spite of some days of poor weather. Monthly rounds totaled 6,988, which averages 233 players each day, making this our most popular course.

Marine Maintenance staff completed the annual Holiday Trees in the Bay project and facilitated the Colorado Lagoon lighting ceremony.

Beach Maintenance Operations is increasing the height of the sand berms in the peninsula area to protect the homes from the anticipated high tides.

### **Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau**

Accessibility improvements are underway at four parks: Pan American, Veterans, Stearns Champions, and Whaley.

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

### **Fire**

On December 4, Fire Station 8, located on Second Street in Belmont Shore, served hot apple cider and Christmas snacks, along with goodwill and holiday spirit, to spectators of the Belmont Shore Christmas Parade.

## **SPECIAL EVENTS (continued)**

### **Library Services**

Dr. John Callas of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory presented two well-attended lectures on Mars exploration, one at El Dorado Library and the other at the Main Library. Dr. Callas has worked on seven Mars missions since 1989, is involved in the development of instrumentation for astrophysics and planetary science, and teaches mathematics at Pasadena City College.

### **Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Services Bureau**

On December 4, the Christmas Candlelight Tours at Rancho Los Cerritos were fully attended and well received. Visitors enjoyed the new 1850s program theme and the Las Pastoreles scene performed in Spanish by Wilson High School students. The adobe's small rooms limited attendance, so that only 255 people, spread out in 17 tours, could be accommodated each night; another 50 volunteers participated in the living history tours and helped with gift shop sales, membership information and food service.

### **Parks, Recreation and Marine, Special Events and Filming Bureau**

The Belmont Shore Christmas Parade, with an estimated attendance of 70,000, was held on December 4, on Second St. between Livingston Drive and Bayshore Ave.

CBS Productions, with a cast and crew of 120, shot a "CSI Miami" on December 8 and 9, near the Colorado Lagoon and Appian Way.

## **OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE**

### **Long Beach Energy, Business Operations/Energy Services**

December's cost of natural gas is 61 cents per therm, which is a decrease of 10 cents per therm from November. The forecasted average residential bill for December is \$65.46, an increase of 45% from the \$45.09 average bill in December 2003.

### **Long Beach Energy, Gas Services Bureau**

The Gas Services Bureau completed a total of 3,550 service calls, including 876 Gas and Water Utility Turn On orders, and 556 Turn Off orders. There were 1,941 Customer Service Orders for services that included lighting pilots, adjusting and inspecting appliances, completing fumigation orders, and verifying read orders. A total of 177 meter maintenance and billing-related orders were completed, as well as 204 customer emergency orders.

### **Human Resources Department**

On December 8, the Civil Service Commission approved an Order of Layoff as requested by the City Manager. The Department of Human Resources will soon receive the Order of Layoff. This Order of Layoff identifies employees, by seniority, for the eight specified classifications that have been eliminated in

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**OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE (continued)**

accordance with the Three-Year Financial Strategic Plan. Most impacted employees have either transferred to vacant positions within their classification or have had a vacancy in a new or prior classification identified for them. The Order of Layoff is the vehicle under the Civil Service Commission's rules to permanently move impacted employees to the new positions. The next step in the Transition Plan is for the Department of Human Resources to submit a request to the Commission to permanently assign the impacted employees to a new classification in lieu of Layoff.

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cc: Christine Shippey, Assistant City Manager  
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